

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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O R 141232Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5948

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 4214

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, EC

SUBJ: CIVAIR U.S.- ECUADOREAN INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 134991; QUITO 4027

1. DAC SUAREZ WILL ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON JUNE 14 VIA  
BRANIFF 974. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY DAC LEGAL ADVISORS  
VALVERDE AND SALAZAR AND BY ECUATORIANA TRAFFIC MANAGER  
LT. COL. SUAREZ AND ASSISTANT YANEZ. SUAREZ SAYS THAT HE  
STILL DESIRES THAT THE CONSULTATIONS BE KEPT INFORMAL AND  
BASICALLY BETWEEN HIM AND LITTON. HIS ADVISORS WILL BE  
AVAILABLE BUT WILL NOT PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY. HE PLANS THE  
CONSULTATIONS TO LAST ONLY TWO DAYS-JUNE 16 AND 17- AND  
WISHES TO RETURN TO QUITO TO PRESENT THE RESULTS TO THE  
CIVIL AVIATION COUNCIL AT ITS REGULAR MEETING ON JUNE 18.

2. THE COMPOSITION OF THE ECUADOREAN TEAM AND THE SPEED  
THAT SUAREZ IS GIVING THE MATTER SUGGEST THAT THE MEETINGS  
WILL BE SERIOUS AND IMPORTANT. WE BELIEVE THAT AT THIS  
REASONABLY CALM MOMENT IN OUR CIVIL AVIATION RELATION-  
SHIP, THE MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON CAN BE VERY SIGNIFICANT  
EITHER IN THE POSITIVE SENSE OF RESOLVING LONG STANDING  
DIFFERENCES AND IRRITATIONS OR IN SETTING THE STAGE FOR A  
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GREAT DEAL OF UNPLEASANTNESS.

3. ONE POSITIVE FACTOR IN THE TIMING OF THESE CONSULTATIONS, AND ONE THAT WAS NOT PRESENT IN THE CONSULTATIONS OF NOVEMBER 1974, IS THAT THE ECUADOREAN SIDE REALLY SEEMS TO WANT ACCESS TO NEW YORK, AND SOON. EUROPEAN AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN CARRIERS ON THE ECUADOR-NEW YORK ROUTE HAVE BEEN QUITE EFFECTIVELY RESTRICTED BY THE DAC. ECUATORIANA TALKS ABOUT WANTING TO INITIATE NEW YORK SERVICE WITHIN 2-3 MONTHS. MOREOVER, IT HAS BECOME CLEAR TO US FROM CONVERSATIONS DURING AND SUBSEQUENT TO LITTON'S VISIT HERE IN MAY THAT THE DENIAL TO ECUATORIANA OF NEW YORK RIGHTS IN 1968 STILL RANKLES WITH HIGH ECUADOREAN OFFICIALS AS AN UNASSUAGED INJUSTICE. MUCH OF THE DAC'S COMPLAINT, AND POSSIBLY OF ITS INTERFERENCE WITH BRANIFF SCHEDULES, APPEARS TO STEM FROM A FEELING OF INJUSTICE THAT BRANIFF SERVES TWO POINTS IN ECUADOR WHILE ECUADOR IS LIMITED TO ONE POINT IN THE UNITED STATES. SUAREZ MAY EVEN BE PERSUADED OF WHAT HE HAS SAID RECENTLY-NAMELY, THAT THE MAIN TRAFFIC BETWEEN ECUADOR AND THE U.S. IS TRAFFIC TO AND FROM NEW YORK, ALTHOUGH BOTH THE QUITO AND GUAYAQUIL MANAGERS OF BRANIFF DENY THIS EMPHATICALLY. WE BELIEVE THAT THE CONCESSION OF NEW YORK COULD ITSELF RELIEVE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS OF DAC INTERFERENCE WITH BRANIFF SCHEDULE CHANGES. AT THE LEAST IT WOULD EQUALIZE U.S. OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECIPROCAL INTERFERENCE WITH ECUATORIANA SCHEDULES.

4. AN AGREEMENT ON HANDLING CHANGES IN FREQUENCIES AND CAPACITIES WILL UNDOUBTEDLY AGAIN PROVE TO BE A DIFFICULT ISSUE IN THE WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS, AS IT WAS IN THE NOVEMBER CONSULTATIONS. SUAREZ INSISTS THAT ECUADOR, UNLIKE SOME OTHER COUNTRIES, DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT BRANIFF AND ECUATORIANA FREQUENCIES SHOULD BE IDENTICAL IN NUMBER, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE U.S. IS THE LARGER MARKET. NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THE GOE POSITION HAS CHANGED SINCE THE NOVEMBER CONSULTATIONS WITH RESPECT TO OBJECTIONS TO AN AGREEMENT THAT ALLOWS HOST GOVERNMENT DISAPPROVED SCHEDULES TO COME INTO EFFECT. IN LITTON'S MEETINGS HERE IN MAY AND SUBSEQUENTLY WE HAVE RECEIVED AMPLE INDICATIONS THAT THE ECUADOREANS ARE DISPOSED IN PRINCIPLE TO FINDING A SOLUTION THAT LIES SOMEWHERE BETWEEN FROZEN FREQUENCIES/

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CAPACITIES AND OPEN SKIES. THIS WILL HAVE TO BE EXPLORED IN DETAIL DURING THE WASHINGTON MEETINGS. ONE FACTOR THAT MAY CURRENTLY WORK IN OUR FAVOR IS THAT THE TOURIST INDUSTRY AND THE QUITO PRESS HAVE BEEN CRITICIZING THE DAC STRONGLY THIS WEEK FOR ITS RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN AIRLINE FREQUENCIES AND CAPACITIES TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE TOURIST INDUSTRY. (REPORTED BY SEPTELS.)

5. SUAREZ HAS INDICATED THAT HE WANTS THESE MATTERS TO BE RESOLVED BY JULY 1 AND HAS HINTED THAT GREATER DIFFICULTIES WILL ENSUE IF THEY ARE NOT. THERE IS NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT THIS IS THE CASE. THE WASHINGTON MEETINGS THEREFORE TAKE ON CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE. HEMENWAY

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